Next year may see a significant change at CCHS: students with laptops.

For a year now, the computers have been on a trial run in a few select classes, including the classes of Mr. Panther and Mrs. Zimmer.

Students tried out both Macbooks and Ipads last year, to test how each would work in a high school classroom. MACS, Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools, supplied the Mac computers on a trial basis.

After some time testing the two technologies, teachers determined that the Macbooks were the superior choice based on student feedback. “While the Ipads are very easy to use, and it’s easy to access the internet, we don’t want to be in the first wave of a new software,” Mr. Panther said in an interview.

However, the students are still a ways from getting the Macbooks; if they are released, it won’t be until next curricular year.

The teachers, however, are due to get them this November.

The laptops, which are Macbook Airs, are lightweight, a factor that could be beneficial: they may replace textbooks.

If all goes according to plan, the computers will be issued to every student, and the possibilities would be just about endless: most textbooks have a version for the computer, and this could cut down on bulky backpacks, a fact which I’m sure will please many students.

Also, note taking could be done in the Macs as well, leading to a more organized filing system for students’ notes.

There are several things that would need to happen before this could, however: the wireless service for the school would have to be expanded significantly. Currently used largely by the teachers, it would have to be greatly expanded.

Also, a Help Desk for computer trouble would be added to the school; there would undoubtedly be constant errors and questions that would require expert help.

There is also the tremendous cost of buying all these computers: 1400 of them. The computer could, perhaps, reduce textbook costs, since the price of the online textbooks is lower.